

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9418

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6804

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EO 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IR  
SUBJ: MID-LEVEL GOI VIEW OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION

SUMMARY: MID-LEVEL GOI OFFICIALS VIEW PROJECTED DEMONSTRATION LAW AS NECESSARY AND LIBERAL. GOI PREPARED TO LET PARLIAMENT DEBATE NEW ELECTORAL LAW AND OPERATE UNDER OLD ONE IF MAJLIS CANNOT AGREE. PRIME MINISTER MOVING TO STRENGTHEN HIS HOLD OVER RESURGENCE PARTY. INTERIOR MINISTRY PLEAANTLY SURPRISED BY NEW SAVAK CHIEF. DECENTRALIZATION WILL MOVE ALONG SLOWLY AS PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS BEGIN TO TRAIN THEIR MEN. PLAN AND BEDGET ORGANIZATION TO HAVE PROVINCIAL ROLE. END SUMMARY.

1. MID-LEVEL INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO IS PERSONAL ALLY OF PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR AND HAS BEEN CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF EMBOFF FOR THREE YEARS GAVE FOLLOWING VIEWS OF RECENT POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION WHICH HE SAYS ARE HELD BY MOST UPPER AND MIDDLE LEVEL INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND MANY OTHERS.

2. NEW DEMONSTRATION LAW-INTERIOR MINISTRY BILL TO BE PRESENTED TO NEW MAJLIS SESSION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE NEXT YEAR'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. GOI INTENDS FOR THAT LAW TO BE HOUSEKEEPING DEVICE TO FACILITATE MANAGEMENT OF INCREASED

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POLITICAL ACTIVITY. LAW WILL BE DRAFTED TO PROVIDE FOR NOTIFICATION OF DEMONSTRATIONR MEETING, NAME OF GROUP, EXPECTED NUMBERS PARTICIPATING, AND ROUTE OF ANY PROJECTED PARADE. LAW IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS REPRESSIVE DEVICE BUT AS LEGAL FOUNDATION TO MANAGE LARGE MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS, TO AVOID VIOLENCE OR CONTROL IT WITH MINIMUM ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. SOURCE

EXPECTED MAJLIS WOULD PASS BILL FAIRLY SWIFTLY.

3. ELECTORAL LAW-AFTER VARIOUS CRITICISMS WERE  
LEVELED AT INTERIOR MINISTRY'S PROPOSED ELECTORAL LAW,  
GOI IS CONTENT TO SIT BACK AND LET PARLIAMENT SORT OUT  
ITS OWN PRIORITIES. SOURCE NOTED THAT GOI HAS STATED  
THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD UNDER OLD LAW IF MAJLIS  
CANNOT AGREE ON NEW ONE. INTERIOR MINISTRY FEELS AGREE-  
MENT WILL BE LIKELY SOMETIME IN FALL OF 1978 AFTER MAJLIS  
DEPUTIES HAVE MILKED ISSUE FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.

4. RESURGENCE PARTY (RPPI) AFFAIRS-CONSTRUCTIVE WING  
LEADER MOINI WILL BE A "POLITICAL DISASTER", BUT IT  
DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE SINCE HUSHANG ANSARY IS REAL  
FORCE IN CONSTRUCTIVE WING. ANSARY CAN BE EXPECTED TO  
SET POLICY AND USE WING AS HIS STEPPING STONE TO PLACE  
IN ACTIVE POLITICS. PROGRESSIVE WING LEADER MOJDEHI  
WHO WAS CHANCELLOR OF FERDOWSI UNIVERSITY IN MASHAD  
IS A FAIRLY DYNAMIC INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN A  
MANDATE BY PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR TO MAKE PROGRESSIVE  
WING AN ACTIVE AGENT OF PRIME MINISTER'S POLICIES.  
MOJDEHI WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH AMOUZEGAR AND PROGRESSIVE  
WING LIKELY TO REPRESENT PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS. SOURCE  
DESCRIBED NAHAVANDI AND THIRD WING AS EFFORT WHICH IS  
BEING BACKED BY SHAH "TO STIR UP THE POLITICAL FIRES A  
BIT". NAHAVANDI HAS COURT BACKING FOR HIS EFFORTS TO  
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STIMULATE DEBATE, AND HIS GROUP IS SOMEWHAT CLOSED.  
PEOPLE WHO WISH TO JOIN ARE GIVEN A PRETTY THOROUGH  
GRILLING AND MUST QUALIFY AS "INTELLECTUALS" IN SOME  
FASHION. SOURCE THOUGHT OPENING UP OF POLITICAL SYSTEM  
WOULD RESULT IN HUNDREDS OF PARTIES AND THOUGHT PROBLEM  
OF KEEPING UP WITH SHIFTING ELECTORAL ALLIANCES WOULD  
SEVERELY TAX LOCAL POLITICAL REPORTERS, LET ALONE SOME  
EMBASSIES. (COMMENT: SOURCE IS CLOSE FRIEND AND  
CONFIDENT OF AMOUZEGAR AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUT PRIME  
MINISTER'S CASE IN BEST LIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, SOURCE  
SEEMS CONFIDENT THAT PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO USE  
RPPI MECHANISM, PARTICULARLY PROGRESSIVE WING, TO EVENTUALLY  
GARNER SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL SUPPORT.)

5. SAVAK-INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SOURCE,  
HAVE BEEN PLEASED AND IN SOME CASES SURPRISED WITH WORK  
OF NEW SAVAK CHIEF MOGHADDAM. SOURCE DESCRIBED  
MOGHADDAM AS VERY INTELLIGENT, MUCH WISER THAN HIS  
PREDECESSOR, AND ENERGETIC. INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS  
ALREADY SEEN SOME POSITIVE RESULTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION  
INCLUDING GREATER COOPERATION WITH SAVAK.

6. DECENTRALIZATION-SOURCE HAD JUST FINISHED PARTICIPATING IN EXTENDED CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. HE SAID DECENTRALIZATION WAS MOVING SLOWLY BUT DEFINITELY MOVING. GOVERNORS WERE PROCEEDING VERY CAUTIOUSLY AND HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPUTY GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAMS. THESE POSITIONS WILL BE FILLED BY MANAGEMENT EXPERTS FROM THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL THEN BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN DECENTRALIZATION. SOURCE SAID GOVERNORS HAD AGREED TO SEVERAL OTHER MINOR MEASURES WHICH THEY HAD BALKED AT LAST YEAR. DECENTRALIZATION WOULD ONLY WORK IF PERSONNEL WERE WELL TRAINED. THIS WAS WHY INTERIOR MINISTRY WAS MOVING SLOWLY AND GETTING AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE BEHIND MOVES BEFORE THEY WERE TAKEN. SOURCE THOUGHT  
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INVOLVEMENT OF PBO OFFICIALS WOULD HASTEN DECENTRALIZATION BY PROVIDING INCREASED EXPERTS AND ONE EXTRA BODY AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL.  
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